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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

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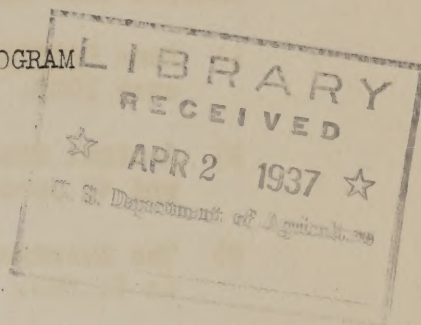
Extension Service, Division of
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Washington, D. C.

THE CENTRAL STATES HOME-FURNISHINGS PROGRAM

March 1937

Statistical Reports

The past.
The future.



The past.

Every year a plan of work is written by home-furnishings specialists having specific objectives including goals for the year. At the end of the year the achievements are summarized in a narrative and statistical report.

There are in the Central States 2,541,841 farm families served by 373 home demonstration workers*. The 1936 statistical reports show that in the Central States:

- 4,468 communities were reached in home-furnishings work.
- 11,409 local leaders assisted with the projects.
- 8,338 days were devoted to the project by extension staff members.
- 8,909 home visits were made.
- 28,014 families improved the selection of home furnishings.
- 32,683 families repaired or remodeled furniture.
- 25,820 families improved walls or floors.
- 16,409 families improved windows.
- 19,724 families improved furniture arrangement.
- 21,868 families applied principles of color and design in improving appearance of rooms.
- \$189,097 was the estimated savings due to the home furnishing program.

*Statistics assembled by the Extension Studies and Teaching Section for the Home-Furnishings Regional Conference, Ames, Iowa, March 25-27, 1937. Narrative by Mary Rokahr. Prepared at the request of Grace E. Frysinger.

The future.

Factors that may influence the future home-furnishings program:

- 1) Farm income in 1936 for the United States increased 12 percent over 1935.
- 2) Central States had 37 percent of all farms in the United States and 43 percent of the gross income in 1935.
- 3) The average value of the farmer's dwelling in the Central States is \$1,592. It varies from \$2,212 in Iowa to \$664 in Kentucky.
- 4) In 1935, 55 percent of the farm families in the Central States had net incomes of less than \$1,000, and 31 percent had incomes of less than \$500.
- 5) Household-account studies in 1935 show that farm families spend from \$7, in Alabama, to \$26, in California, per capita for house furnishings. Account studies from Central States average from \$5 to \$20 per capita for house furnishings.
- 6) Through the Rural Electrification Administration program on November 15, 1936, 15,315 miles of electric line were under construction, reaching 58,606 customers. Of this number, 10,508 miles of line are under construction in the Central States, reaching 31,260 customers.
- 7) From the drought areas of the Central States thousands of farm families migrated further west in 1936.
- 8) In 1935, 48 percent of all the farmer bankruptcies occurred in the Midwestern States. From 1925-35 bankruptcies decreased 44 percent.
- 9) Most homes are equipped when their occupants are between the ages of 25 and 35.

Table 1.--Home-furnishings statistics

Central States	Days devoted to project				Farm homes 1935 Census	Home-economics workers				Home demon- stration agents.
	1925	1930	1935	1940		Dec. 31 1925	Dec. 31 1930	Dec. 31 1935	Dec. 31 1936	
Illinois.....	426	392	537		231, 312	30	42	48	61	44
Indiana	41	306	462		200, 835	7	18	20	39	31
Iowa	1,140	2,363	2,330		221, 986	31	42	47	65	47
Kansas	32	310	787		174, 589	21	42	42	63	31
Kentucky	343	530	811		278, 298	31	36	46	62	43
Michigan	38	560	747		196, 517	14	20	17	31	19
Minnesota	94	371	366		203, 302	15	24	25	31	21
Missouri	187	743	369		278, 454	17	29	27	53	32
Nebraska	-	343	452		133, 616	8	18	23	34	25
North Dakota	41	96	117		84, 606	9	14	10	14	6
Ohio	24	609	975		255, 146	23	39	31	47	37
South Dakota	230	27	284		83, 303	10	18	23	23	18
Wisconsin	33	109	317		199, 877	8	12	15	29	19
Total:										
Central States	2,629	6,859	8,558		2,541, 841	234	354	374	552	373
Eastern States	1,161	4,437	7,086		715, 465	228	288	312	346	224
Southern States	4,410	14,053	19,199		2,983, 996	718	930	1,140	1,273	873
Western States	1,505	3,534	2,619		570, 959	101	162	174	191	116
Territories										17
Total, U. S.	9,705	28,883	37,462		6,812, 261	1,281	1,734	2,000	2,362	1,603

By 5-year periods statistics show that there has been a consistent growth in number of days devoted to the project and in number of workers. The variations in State figures are explained by certain local situations. Figures for other regions are given to complete the picture for the United States.

Does the present situation warrant our expecting and planning for more time to be devoted to this project next year and a proportionate growth by 1940? What will be your State goal by 1940?

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Table 2.--Home-furnishings statistics

Central States	Communities participating				Local leaders assisting			
	1925	1930	1935	1940	1925	1930	1935	1940
Illinois.....	97	257	305		163	504	630	
Indiana.....	11	151	280		---	462	615	
Iowa.....	486	899	569		2,517	3,542	2,903	
Kansas.....	13	107	419		16	184	847	
Kentucky.....	122	224	239		208	385	345	
Michigan	55	271	696		16	558	1,254	
Minnesota.....	35	206	235		44	280	169	
Missouri.....	45	183	347		88	624	948	
Nebraska.....	22	301	599		---	983	2,163	
North Dakota...	26	85	121		49	162	315	
Ohio.....	10	196	313		6	661	631	
South Dakota...	543	31	156		1,650	10	329	
Wisconsin.....	3	92	189		16	77	260	
Total:								
Central States	1,468	3,003	4,462		4,773	8,432	11,409	
Eastern States	696	1,912	2,804		736	1,802	3,961	
Southern States	3,119	6,993	11,228		2,267	7,321	9,419	
Western States	405	1,312	1,273		542	1,588	1,879	
Total, U. S.	5,688	13,220	19,773		8,318	19,143	26,668	

Local leaders have functioned consistently over the 10-year period in the home-furnishings program. Can we accept the idea that because local leaders increased in number, their work was satisfactory to themselves and those helped? Should we set a goal for 1940 for more local leaders, or should we concentrate on helping the present leaders to do the job better?

There were almost three leaders in home furnishings for every community carrying the project. Is that a correct relationship? Note the changes in number of communities reached by each State. Is the home-furnishings project reaching the maximum number of communities for the present personnel in your State? Should your State goal for number of communities reached in 1940 be lowered or raised. How should this decision be made?

Table 3.--Home-furnishings statistics

Central States	Home visits made				Number of families improving the selection of home furnishings			
	1925	1930	1935	1940	1925*	1930*	1935	1940
Illinois.....		135	230		971	652	1,877	
Indiana.....		24	509		35	3,023	2,440	
Iowa.....		333	3,120		15,408	27,110	4,763	
Kansas.....		116	794		120	543	3,596	
Kentucky.....		419	853		1,421	1,825	1,837	
Michigan.....		89	541		20	2,587	3,572	
Minnesota.....		42	284		93	1,485	1,067	
Missouri.....		497	262		661	1,371	1,952	
Nebraska.....		197	689		---	1,574	494	
North Dakota..		26	121		241	500	873	
Ohio.....		314	976		8	1,011	3,751	
South Dakota..		9	215		2,847	-----	578	
Wisconsin.....		---	315		35	383	1,214	
Total:								
Central States		2,201	8,909		21,860	42,064	28,014	
Eastern States		2,747	7,402		5,226	14,470	15,656	
Southern States		23,583	30,282		27,569	35,596	69,968	
Western States		3,595	3,176		1,743	7,781	6,700	
Total, U. S.		32,126	49,769		56,398	99,911	120,338	

* Number of women instead of families.

Home visits as a means of furthering result demonstrations in home furnishings are a good teaching device. It is gratifying to note that between 1930-35 there was a 55 percent increase. Would it be inconsistent with our present knowledge of good teaching procedure in home-furnishings work to expect a similar increase by 1940?

There has been a drop in the number of families improving the selection of home furnishings. The depression and the change in emphasis in the Iowa program seem to be responsible for the change.

If farm incomes increase, and if farm families continue their interest in home improvement what results can we expect in this project through extension work in 1940?

Table 4.--Home-furnishings statistics

Central States	Number of families following recommendations in improving methods of repairing, remodeling, or refinishing furniture				Number of families improving treatment of walls, woodwork, and floors			
	1925*	1930*	1935	1940	1925*	1930*	1935	1940
Illinois	746	349	1,605		905	454	1,601	
Indiana	28	2,046	2,918		8	2,449	2,902	
Iowa	1,165	1,243	1,855		6,458	5,055	897	
Kansas	239	788	2,524		203	1,153	2,552	
Kentucky	697	1,781	2,017		632	2,434	2,167	
Michigan	69	2,084	7,759		35	1,047	1,194	
Minnesota	410	1,867	1,410		180	2,430	1,608	
Missouri	331	759	2,361		799	1,050	2,142	
Nebraska	657	1,426	5,398		793	1,334	6,212	
North Dakota ..	212	207	739		362	311	736	
Ohio	8	905	2,734		8	840	1,744	
South Dakota ..	2,115	-	389		30	45	412	
Wisconsin	17	168	974		17	181	1,153	
Total:								
Central States	6,694	13,623	32,683		10,430	18,783	25,320	
Eastern States	4,669	8,350	18,440		2,326	6,740	8,493	
Southern States	16,846	31,392	69,992		18,382	24,723	62,600	
Western States	1,363	8,856	6,253		1,555	7,892	6,564	
Total, U. S.	29,572	62,221	127,373		32,693	58,138	102,977	

* Number of women instead of families.

Forty-one percent of the houses in the Central States were built between 25 and 49 years ago. Twenty-three percent of the houses were built between 10 and 24 years ago. Will the extension staff need to continue to give help on improving walls, floors, and woodwork?

The increase in families remodeling, repairing, and refinishing furniture has more than doubled from 1930-35. What are the situations that would justify a continued expansion of this program? Repairing of furniture, most authorities concede, requires a technical experience or training. Should farm families be taught to do their own furniture repair work? Are we using the best methods to help them?

Table 5.--House furnishings,
as reported by all county extension workers for
1935

Central States	Families following recommendations in:		Families applying principles of color and design in improving appearance of rooms	Total estimated savings due to house furnishing program
	Improving treatment of windows	Improving arrangements of rooms		
Illinois	1,628	1,516	1,565	\$ 7,869
Indiana	2,327	1,557	1,236	10,979
Iowa	256	3,018	2,364	7,268
Kansas	1,887	1,985	2,558	22,191
Kentucky	1,876	1,827	1,908	18,587
Michigan	2,400	2,118	3,757	23,709
Minnesota	811	890	887	59,014
Missouri	1,736	1,983	1,609	11,584
Nebraska	206	209	308	1,000
North Dak.	735	569	296	810
Ohio	102	1,582	3,619	19,166
South Dak.	607	942	415	1,553
Wisconsin	1,838	1,528	1,346	5,367
Total:				
Central	16,409	19,724	21,868	189,097
Eastern	7,832	10,507	14,607	128,533
Southern	62,893	70,630	52,652	580,394
Western	4,881	4,491	5,349	33,971
Total, U.S.	92,015	105,352	94,476	931,995

Other statistics by which we may judge progress in house-furnishing work are those above, on window treatment, color application, arrangement, and savings.

To be satisfied with statistical results we must evaluate them on the basis of:

- (a) Number of people to be reached.
- (b) Personnel available.
- (c) Whether the choice of project phases were based on needs.
- (d) Whether measures set up are adequate presentation of achievements.

Are the statistical questions now used in the house-furnishing project satisfactory or should they be changed to obtain better bases for measurement of results in developing better family living by this project?

Table 6.--Home furnishing 4-H club work, 1935

Central States	Club members enrolled	Club members completing	Units completed	
			Rooms	Articles
Ohio	1,250	1,069	825	2,106
Indiana	416	351	323	2,098
Kentucky	136	108	41	570
Illinois	153	143	103	292
Michigan	535	512	332	1,602
Wisconsin	491	375	215	1,148
Minnesota	946	704	561	2,843
Iowa	3,002	2,614	3,854	9,744
Missouri	170	147	142	961
North Dakota ...	798	584	298	1,908
South Dakota ...	1,183	628	-	3,449
Nebraska	1,342	948	843	4,383
Kansas	719	469	411	1,755
Total:				
Central States	11,141	8,652	7,948	32,859
Eastern States	6,460	5,176	2,395	18,741
Southern States	78,599	44,733	28,333	153,070
Western States	1,440	1,051	908	4,900
Total, U. S.	97,640	59,612	39,584	209,570

The statistical story of home-furnishings extension work would not be complete without a study of the statistics on 4-H club work. What are the needs of 4-H club girls in relation to the general home-furnishing program? Are these needs being satisfied? What are the limiting factors? How can these be overcome in relation to the general organization of the work? Organization of the subject matter?